

REMARKS

Power of Attorney

The subject file has recently been transferred to the undersigned for prosecution. Please process the enclosed Power of Attorney by Assignee of Entire Interest and direct all future communications to the undersigned. Please also associate this application with Customer Number 34205.

Status of Claims

Claims 1-17 and 19-34 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 8, 10-11, 17, 19-23, 26-27 and 30-33 are rejected. Claims 2-7, 9, 12-16, 24-25, 28-29, and 34 are objected to. Claims 7, 18, and 35 are canceled. Applicant notes that the Examiner indicated that claim 7 was pending; however, claim 7 was canceled in the October 3, 2005 Response to Office Action.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 8, 10-11, 17, 19-23, 26-27 and 30-33 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Muller et al., U.S. Patent 6,524,308. Claims 1, 17, 23, and 31 have been cancelled to expedite prosecution thereby mooting the rejection with respect to those patents. Claims 8, 10-11, 19-22, 26-27, and 30-33 have been amended to depend from an allowable base claim and it is believed that these claims are now allowable.

Objections to Claims

The Examiner objected to claims 2-7, 9, 12-16, 24-25, 28-29, and 34. Claims 2, 4, 6, 9, 15, 24, and 34 have been amended to be rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims and it is believed these claims are now allowable. Claims 3, 5, 12, 13, 14, 16 were not amended but, it is believed, now depend from allowable claims. Claim 25 was amended to depend from an allowable claim. Claim 29 was indicated as being allowable.

Conclusion

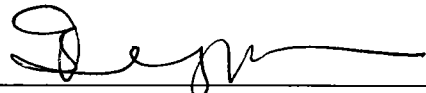
Applicants respectfully submit that with the arguments and amendments presented herein all pending claims are allowable over the art of record, for at least the reasons discussed above, and respectfully request that a Notice of Allowance with respect to all pending claims be issued in this case.

If the Examiner believes that a teleconference would be of further value in expediting the allowance of the pending claims, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number listed below. The present response is being filed within the three-month statutory period for response by September 18, 2006 (September 16 being a Saturday) and no fee or petition for an extension is due. If, however, it is believed that any additional fees are necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge or credit any such fees or overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1901 (Reference #687-3108/US).

Dated: September 18, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

OPPENHEIMER, WOLFF & DONNELLY LLP
Attorneys for Applicants

By 
Barbara A. Wrigley
Reg. No. 34,950
45 South 7th Street, Suite 3300
Minneapolis, MN 55402
Telephone No. (612) 607-7595
Facsimile No. (612) 607-7100
E-Mail Bwrigley@Oppenheimer.com

Customer No. 34205